

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 261030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8249

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

CDR JCRC NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: ICRC APPROACH TO CENTRAL JOINT COMMISSION

ON POW/MIA PROBLEMS

FOR U/PW SIEVERTS

REF: VIENTIANE 1624

1. ICRC/LAOS REPRESENTATIVE WERNER BLATTER INFORMED EMBOFF TODAY THAT HE HAD MET WITH PHAO BOUNNAPHOL, LPF DELEGATION SPOKESMAN ON JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT (JCIA), TO DISCUSS MAKING A PRESENTATION ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS TO JCIA. HE DID NOT RAISE ARTICLE 18(C) SPECIFICALLY BUT FOUND PHAO WILLING TO DISCUSS WHOLE RANGE OF POW/MIA SUBJECTS IN POSITIVE AND COOPERATIVE WAY. ACCORDING TO BLATTER, PHAO STATED: "THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE JCIA IMMEDIATELY AFTER FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. IF YOU HAVE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION AND EXPERIENCE TO HELP US, THAT WOULD BE OF GREAT USE." PHAO RECOMMENDED THAT BLATTER PREPARE FORMAL LETTER TO SOTH PHETRASY, SPELLING OUT FUNCTIONS ICRC COULD PERFORM.

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2. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PHAO, BLATTER DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH KHAMKING SOUVANLASI, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RLG DELEGATION, WHO ALSO TOOK POSITIVE APPROACH. KHAMKING AGREED THAT BLATTER SHOULD PREPARE IDENTICAL LETTER ON SUBJECT TO RLG DELEGATION. BOTH PHAO AND KHAMKING CONCURRED IN BLATTER'S PROPOSAL TO MAKE SHORT PRESENTATION TO JCIA PLENUM, DESCRIBING ICRC FACILITIES, INCLUDING CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY, THAT COULD BE PUT AT JCIA'S DISPOSAL. BLATTER WILL MEET WITH RLGA BRIGADIER GENERAL ETAM SINGVONGSA TOMORROW TO DISCUSS SUBJECT FURTHER. ETAM IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO HEAD SUB-COMMITTEE OF RLG DELEGATION THAT WILL CONCERN ITSELF WITH POW/MIA QUESTIONS.

3. COMMENT: BLATTER IS BECOMING QUITE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GOOD FAITH OF BOTH SIDES IN IMPLEMENTING POW/MIA PROVISIONS OF LAOS PROTOCOL. HE BELIEVES THAT HIS CONVERSATION WITH SOUPHANOUVONG IN SAM NEUA HAS RESULTED IN BROADER AWARENESS AMONG PATHET LAO FIGURES OF THE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF POW/MIA MATTERS. WE ARE PROVIDING HIM TODAY WITH UPDATED LIST OF AMERICAN MIA/DIC'S.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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